

CITY OF SHELL ROCK, IOWA

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT  
ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

FOR THE PERIOD  
JULY 1, 2013 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2014

- Prepared By -

Larry Pump, CPA  
117 North Jackson Street  
Charles City, IA 50616-2036  
Phone (641)257-4222

CITY OF SHELL ROCK, IOWA

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**CITY OF SHELL ROCK, IOWA**

**OFFICIALS**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>TERM EXPIRES</u></b>
<b>(Before January 2014)</b>		
Larry Young	Mayor	January 2014
Benjamin DeWitt	Mayor Pro tem	January 2014
James DeWitt	Council Member	January 2014
Donald Bonzer	Council Member	January 2016
Rosalee Meyer	Council Member	January 2016
Edward Willert	Council Member	January 2016
Marilyn Hardee	Clerk/Treasurer	January 2014
Karl Nelson and Bruce Toenjes	Attorney	January 2014
<b>(After January 2014)</b>		
Larry Young	Mayor	January 2016
Benjamin DeWitt	Mayor Pro tem	January 2018
Donald Bonzer	Council Member	January 2016
Rosalee Meyer	Council Member	January 2016
Edward Willert	Council Member	January 2016
James DeWitt	Council Member	January 2018
Marilyn Hardee	Clerk/Treasurer	January 2015
Karl Nelson and Bruce Toenjes	Attorney	January 2015



**Larry Pump, CPA**  
117 North Jackson Street  
Charles City, IA 50616

E-mail: rlp@fiai.net

(641) 257-4222  
or (641) 228-2812  
Fax (641) 228-1513

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES**

To the Honorable Mayor and  
Members of the City Council:

I have performed an agreed-upon procedures engagement of the City of Shell Rock, Iowa pursuant to Chapter 11.6 of the Code of Iowa enacted by the Iowa Legislature to provide certain minimum oversight of Iowa cities. Accordingly, I have applied certain tests and procedures to selected accounting records and related information of the City of Shell Rock for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. This agreed-upon procedures engagement was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the standards for attestation engagements contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

The procedures I performed are summarized as follows:

1. I reviewed selected City Council meeting minutes for compliance with Chapters 21, 372.13(6) and 380 of the Code of Iowa.
2. I reviewed the City's internal controls to determine if proper control procedures are in place and incompatible duties, from a control standpoint, are not performed by the same employee.
3. I reviewed surety bond coverage for compliance with Chapter 64 of the Code of Iowa.
4. I obtained and reviewed the City Clerk's financial reports and selected bank reconciliations to determine whether the bank balances properly reconciled to the general ledger account balances and monthly financial reports provided to the City Council.
5. I reviewed City funds for consistency with the City Finance Committee's recommended Uniform Chart of Accounts (COA) and to determine required funds and fund balances are properly maintained and accurately accounted for.
6. I reviewed the City's fiscal year 2014 Annual Financial Report to determine whether it was completed and accurately reflects the City's financial information.
7. I reviewed investments to determine compliance with Chapter 12B of the Code of Iowa.
8. I reviewed compliance with Chapters 12C.2, 12B.10B and 556.1(12) of the Code of Iowa pertaining to required depository resolutions, investment policy and reporting of unclaimed property to the State of Iowa.
9. I reviewed debt, including general obligation and revenue bonds/notes, and related transactions for proper authorization and compliance with Chapters 75, 384 and 403.9 of the Code of Iowa and to determine whether the debt and related proceeds and repayments were properly accounted for.

10. I reviewed and tested selected tax increment financing (TIF) transactions, including receipts, disbursements and transfers, for compliance and accurate accounting, including compliance with the TIF reporting requirements of Chapter 384.22 of the Code of Iowa.
11. I reviewed the City's TIF debt certification forms filed with the County Auditor, including requests for collection of reduced TIF amounts and to decertify certain TIF obligations, as applicable, for proper support and compliance with Chapter 403.19(6) of the Code of Iowa.
12. I reviewed and tested selected receipts for accurate accounting and consistency with the recommended COA.
13. I reviewed and tested selected disbursements for proper approval, adequate supporting documentation, accurate accounting and consistency with the recommended COA and compliance with the public purpose criteria established by Article III, Section 31 of the Constitution of the State of Iowa.
14. I reviewed transfers between funds for propriety, proper authorization and accurate accounting.
15. I reviewed and tested selected payroll and related transactions for propriety, proper authorization and accurate accounting.
16. I reviewed the annual certified budget for proper authorization, certification and timely amendment.

Based on the performance of the procedures described above, I identified various recommendations for the City. My recommendations are described in the Detailed Recommendations section of this report. Unless reported in the Detailed Recommendations, items of non-compliance were not noted during the performance of the specific procedures listed above.

I was not engaged to and did not conduct an audit of the City of Shell Rock, the objective of which is the expression of opinions on the City's financial statements. Accordingly, I do not express opinions on the City's financial statements. Had I performed additional procedures, or had I performed an audit of the City of Shell Rock, additional matters might have come to my attention that would have been reported to you.

This report, a public record by law, is intended solely for the information and use of the officials, employees and citizens of the City of Shell Rock and other parties to whom the City of Shell Rock may report. This report is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

I would like to acknowledge the many courtesies and assistance extended to us by personnel of the City of Shell Rock during the course of my agreed-upon procedures. Should you have any questions concerning any of the above matters, I shall be pleased to discuss them with you at your convenience.



Charles City, Iowa  
November 25, 2014

## Detailed Recommendations

**CITY OF SHELL ROCK, IOWA  
DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2013 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2014**

- (A) Segregation of Duties - One important aspect of internal control is the segregation of duties among employees to prevent an individual employee from handling duties which are incompatible. Generally, one individual has control over each of the following areas for the City:

- (1) Cash - handling, reconciling and recording.
- (2) Receipts - opening mail, collecting, depositing, journalizing, reconciling and posting
- (3) Disbursements - purchasing, invoice processing, check writing, mailing, reconciling and recording.
- (4) Payroll - Recordkeeping, preparation and distribution.
- (5) Utilities - billing, collecting, depositing and posting.
- (6) Financial reporting - preparing and reconciling.
- (7) Journal entries - preparing and journalizing.

Recommendation - I realize segregation of duties is difficult with a limited number of employees. However, the City should review its control procedures to obtain the maximum internal control possible under the circumstances utilizing currently available staff, including elected officials. Independent reviews of reconciliations should be documented by the signature or initials of the reviewer and the date of the review.

- (B) Information Systems Controls - The City does not have a written disaster recovery plan. Also, adequate fire protection of computers and files does not exist.

Recommendation - The City should implement the controls necessary to protect the processing of computer information.

- (C) Management Financial Information - The Clerk's financial reports to the City Council included cash and investment balances and year-to-date receipts and disbursements, but did not include comparisons to the certified budget by function or a summary of beginning balance, receipts, disbursements, transfers and ending balance by fund.

Recommendation - To provide better control over budgeted disbursements and the opportunity for timely amendments to the certified budget, the Clerk's monthly financial reports to the City Council should include comparisons to the certified budget by function. Also, for better financial information, the monthly reports should also include the beginning balance, receipts, disbursements, transfers and ending balance for each fund.

- (D) Certified Budget - Disbursements during the year ended June 30, 2014 exceeded the amounts budgeted in the community and economic development function prior to amendment. Chapter 384.20 of the Code of Iowa state, in part, "Public monies may not be expended or encumbered except under an annual or continuing appropriation."

Recommendation - The budget should have been amended in accordance with Chapter 384.18 of the Code of Iowa before disbursements were allowed to exceed the budget.

**CITY OF SHELL ROCK, IOWA  
DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2013 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2014**

(E) Post-dated Checks - I noted the City is post-dating checks.

Recommendation - The City should avoid the use of post-dating checks.

(F) Business Transactions - Business transactions between the City and City officials or employees are detailed as follows:

<u>Name, Title, and Business Connection</u>	<u>Transaction Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
David Green, Employee, Self-employed	Cleaning	\$ 2,358
Brad Young, Mayor's Son, Self-employed	Flooring	21,103

In accordance with Chapter 362.5(3)(k) of the Code of Iowa, the transactions with David Green do not appear to represent a conflict of interest since total transactions were less than \$2,500 during the fiscal year. The transactions with Brad Young may represent a conflict of interest since total transactions were more than \$2,500 during the fiscal year.

Recommendation - The City should consult legal counsel to determine the disposition of this matter.

(G) Annual Urban Renewal Report (AURR) - The AURR report was approved and certified to the Iowa Department of Management on or before December 1.

The following reporting exceptions on the Levy Authority Summary were noted:

The City understated the amount reported as TIF debt outstanding.

Activity of the Special Revenue, Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Fund, including beginning and ending cash balances does not agree with the City's general ledger.

Principal and interest payments on TIF certified debt should be paid from the TIF fund. Principal of \$40,000 and interest of \$10,900 was paid from the Debt Service Fund on the TIF debt.

Recommendation - The City should ensure the amounts reported on the Levy Authority Summary agree with the City's records. Payments on TIF debt should be paid or transferred from the TIF Fund.